(d) the estimate of the savings in the consumption petrol by initiating the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) As intimated by the Ministry of Surface Transport, under Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 alterationiin motor vehicles for its operation by different types of fuel or source of energy, including battery, compressed natural gas, solar power or any other fuel or source of energy other than liquid petroleum gas is permissible.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas propose to take up pilot projects in U.P. and Maharashtra to ascertain the effects of using ethanol blended auto-fuel on the environment and to examine operational and financial aspects.

Availing of Sales Tax Incentive by RPL

3636. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited have been allowed to avail Sales Tax incentive under composite scheme as per which it can opt for certain transactions under exemption and certain transactions under deferment scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the transactions covered under exemption and deferment scheme separately; and

(c) the anticipated financial incentives per annum in crores when the Plants run on full capacity i.e. 27 million tonnes per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.PONNUSWAMY): (a) M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) have been granted eligibility certificate for sales tax incentives by the State Government of Gujarat. The scheme permits RPL to avail sales tax exemption and/or deferment benefits. Under this scheme, RPL has opted for sales tax composite benefits. Accordingly, it can avail of sales tax exemption and/or sales tax defervent.

(b) M/s RPL have opted to exercise exemption option for 1/3 of the sales tax amount payable on its controlled petroleum products and deferment option for the remaining amount.

(c) As the amounts of sales tax payable under the Central Sales Tax Act and State sales tax laws of Gujarat State depend on variable factors like quantities of controlled petroleum products of RPL consumed within and outside the

State, prevailing prices of the controlled products etc., it is not possible to determine amounts of financial incentives in advance.

Blackmarketing of LPG Cylinders in Itanagar

3637. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG dealers in Itanagar district of Arunachal Pradesh and number of connections with each of them;

(b) whether Government are aware of[the fact that most of the dealers are black marketing LPG cylinders by showing the shortage of LPG in different parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.PONNUSWAMY): (a) At present, there is only one distributorship of Indian Oil Corporation Limited namely M/s. Marina Gas located at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and the number of customers/LPG connections with this distributor are 7247 as on 1.4.2000

(b) and (c) Regular check of the LPG distributors are carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels to prevent the black marketing of LPG and other malpractices etc. If any of the distributor is found indulging in any malpractice/irregularity, action is initiated against such distributor for the established malpractice/irregularities depending upon its nature, as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship agreement in vogue.

Programmes for Poverty Afflicted Areas of Orissa

3638. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt.'s attention has been drawn to the report, captioned At 14, Kalahandi's Bonita was sold, Now she's selling herself part by part in the Telegraph on the 21st February, 2000;

(b) whether Kalahandi and various other pockets afflicted with abject poverty in Orissa and other States were identified in 1985 and year that followed;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) what schemes and programmes were launched for accelerated development of these pockets to bring them to the mainstream of national life; and